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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Bill Seeks Major Changes In Service Deposit Program

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Deposits program is due for total revamping, should Congress approve DOD-sponsored legislation. Changes set forth in the bill (H.R. 14875) are so sweeping that the program would be renamed "Uniformed Services Savings Deposits."

Enactment of the bill would replace the old Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Deposit program with a completely new one applicable to deposits made overseas.

Those holding deposits under the current program would continue to draw interest at the old 4% rate until their enlistments terminate. One exception would be those with deposits under the current program and serving overseas or going overseas before their present enlistment is terminated. They would receive the interest rate established under the proposed program.

The proposed Uniformed Services Savings Deposits program would apply to deposits made overseas and would:

- Make officers as well as enlisted men eligible to participate;
- Establish an "attractive" interest rate on overseas deposits that would be set by the President from time to time;
- Authorize deposits for amounts as little as $5.00, but not more than any serviceman's unallotted pay and allowances;
- Set the maximum interest bearing amount of deposits at $10,000;
- Terminate interest on deposits 90 days after returning to the U.S. or its possessions.

The precise rate for overseas deposits has yet to be resolved, but commanders have recommended to DOD that it be high. The House version would leave the exact rate to the President's discretion and also authorize him to raise or lower it to meet changing conditions. The Senate version also would allow the President to set the interest rate but not to exceed 10%.

Purpose of the bill is: (1) to provide an attractive savings program for overseas personnel and to replace the outmoded Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Deposits program; (2) to reduce expenditures by military personnel in overseas communities and lessen the adverse balance of payments.

UNC SALUTE—Maj. Gen. Chester L. Johnson, USA, outgoing Commanding General, 7th Infantry Div., receives the United Nations Command Salute from Gen. Dwight E. Beach, Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command, Korea. Gen. Johnson has been reassigned to the Office of the Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

USAREUR, 7th Army Merger To Be Completed by Dec. 1

U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army have been directed to merge, "as an initial step in the current program to rearrange and streamline the U.S. military command structure in Europe as a result of the necessity to relocate U.S. military forces from France."

In making this announcement, Defense also said "the merger is planned to be completed by Dec. 1."

Old 7th Army headquarters at Stuttgart, Germany, will still be retained by the U.S. government. No additional facilities will be required at USAREUR's Heidelberg headquarters, it is anticipated.

Gen. Andrew P. O'Meara will command the new U.S. Army Europe 7th Army Command. Lt. Gen. Theodore J. Conway "will serve as Deputy Commander to General O'Meara for 7th Army affairs."

There is no official word as yet as to the relocation of EUCOM Headquarters, currently at Paris.

Washington Memos

JCS CHAIRMAN GEN. Earle G. Wheeler is scheduled to speak and present annual award at 21st Annual Transportation and Logistics Forum of National Defense Transportation Association at Dallas in September. NDTA announcement said presentations will be given by general or flag officer of each service. Complete forum program is available from NDTA Headquarters, 1612 K St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

TOTAL NUMERICAL STRENGTH of Armed Forces on June 30, 1966, based on preliminary reports, was 3,093,356. Figures by service are Army, 1,199,764; Navy, 744,626; Marine Corps, 261,659; and Air Force, 887,307. This represents 37,516 increase over May 31, 1966 combined strength of 3,055,840.

DOD CASUALTY FIGURES show 4,440 U.S. military personnel lost their lives through hostile actions in Vietnam from Jan. 1, 1961 through July 23, 1966. An additional 24,357 have been wounded. Non-hostile actions claimed lives of 930.

ARMY HAS DROPPED term "ZI Commanders" in favor of "CONUS Army Commanders" to define commanding generals of numbered armies in the Continental United States. Term and definition in AR 320-5 has been rescinded. "ZI", or "Zone of Interior", was authorized by general order in 1955.

INSTANT LANDING FIELD for helicopters and STOL/VTOL aircraft is being tested by Air Force. Chlorinated polyester resin formulation reinforced by fiberglass was sprayed over desert floor in just 30 minutes. Among other vehicles, 7,000-pound UH-1 helicopter and 17,500-pound fire truck used surface without damage or permanent deformation.

COAST GUARD VIETNAM service now past first anniversary. CG Sqdn. 1 arrived year ago in late July with 17 patrol boats, with nine more joining later. Cutter crews have boarded 35,000 junks and sunk 22 enemy vessels, killing or wounding a confirmed 100 VC in coastal patrolling and river operations.

VIETNAM COASTAL SURVEILLANCE is bolstered by three Navy craft that "float" on cushion of air. Single gas turbine engine provides lift and propels combat-loaded 39-foot craft at 50 knot-plus speeds over water, swamp and land. Each air cushion boat is manned by two officers and two enlisted men.

ANSWERS TO MANY problems facing military and civilian executives in Department of Army are available in latest bibliographic survey published by The Army Library of The Adjutant General's Office in DA Pamphlet 600-10. Titled, "The Executive: Philosophy, Problems, and Practices," publication provides ready guide to help busy executive identify where he can learn more about significant advancements in personnel management theory and practice.

VANGUARD OF SEVEN-MAN American Red Cross team chosen to operate refugee camp in RVN left Washington for Saigon July 25. Team to be assisted by seven members of RVN Red Cross in counterpart positions in operating camp, which will accommodate up to 10,000 civilians forced from their homes by war.

ARMY SELECTION BOARD, convened May 31st to recommend warrant officers for permanent promotion to CWO, W-4 and CWO, W-3, has adjourned.

BUOYANT BODY ARMOR has been developed by Navy's Clothing and Textile Laboratory, Naval Supply Center, Bayonne. It is being tested in RVN for protection against explosive ordnance and for buoyancy in water. Conventional body armor weighs eight pounds or more. Tested item weighs same as standard life preserver, 46 ounces.

MORE THAN TWO YEARS of off-duty time research paid off for a Brooke Army Medical Center sergeant who developed an artificial blood serum at estimated annual government savings of $21,000. Staff Sergeant Clyde C. Marsteller, a medical laboratory technician and instructor at the Medical Field Service School was presented a $760 Army Incentive Award.

AIR FORCE COMMUNICATIONS Service's C-140 Jetstar pilots will no longer be "sitting ducks" when they fly across RVN jungles flight checking navigational aids of U.S. airfields. $400,000 modification program began in July on specially-equipped jet aircraft to provide in-flight crew escape hatches—missing feature on the aircraft up to now.

SOLUTION TO ACCIDENTAL loss of valuable oceanographic instruments at sea is aim of a Navy project. One mechanism being tested by Naval Oceanographic Office is complicated system using rubber flotation bags for raising instruments to the surface should they drop below desired depth.

RADM. PAUL E. TRIMBLE'S NOMINATION as Assistant Commandant of the Coast Guard with rank of vice admiral was approved July 26 by the Senate Commerce Committee. He was nominated to replace VAdm. William D. Shields who has retired.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF International Military Sports Council (CISM) reports 1966 as most active year let. 50 scheduled events top last year's 42 and include championships in 16 different sports, 28 football games, one general assembly, two executive committee meetings and one CISM Academy board of directors meeting.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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DOD Transportation Needs Met Despite Airline Strike

DOD has been able to meet high priority air transportation requirements during the airline strike.

This was disclosed to the House Armed Services Committee on July 28 by Robert C. Moot, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Logistics Services, Installations and Logistics.

Mr. Moot introduced a statistical comparison showing that both the domestic and overseas cargo airlift capability has been greater than required. This was also true of Military Airlift Command's overseas passenger requirements.

Deficits in domestic passenger travel, however, were noted by Mr. Moot. About 25 percent of the military official duty travel previously handled by the struck airlines, he said, was being deferred or met by other travel modes.

Also, an estimated 40,000 military personnel on stateside leave monthly have had to find alternative transportation or change their leave schedule.

Some official duty travel is not being accommodated, Mr. Moot said, because it is not feasible to charter flights unless group movements can be arranged.

He explained that DOD has concentrated efforts on assuring that military personnel on leave prior to departure for, or return from Vietnam, are accorded expeditious travel.

Military Commanders' Aid Asked In OEO Summer Swimming Program

Post and base commanders have been requested to cooperate in an Office of Economic Opportunity program to increase swimming opportunities for underprivileged children this summer.

Cooperation was requested from DOD in arranging swimming opportunities at military installations in and near selected major metropolitan areas.

Service secretaries have been provided information and guidance in a memorandum. Such a program has already been developed for the 14 appropriated-fund pools at military installations in the Washington, D. C. area.

As presently planned, a local OEO representative or an OEO Community Action Agency in each area will be responsible for overall planning in that area.

Commanders, when contacted, are requested to cooperate in development of appropriate plans under the program. Coordination among commanders of different services located in the same area is also called for.

NAVAL RESERVE MONTH—Governor John H. Reed of Maine signs a proclamation naming August Naval Air Reserve month throughout the state. The proclamation recognizes the 50th anniversary of Naval Reserve Aviation. Witnessing the signing are: (left to right) Cdr. R. Greeley, USNR; Cdr. Robert A. Ouellette, USNR; Capt. R. L. White, USNR, and Capt. David C. Rains, USN, all of the Naval Air Station, Brunswick, Me.

Army Surgeon Gen. Praises RVN Medical Facilities

Army Medical Service has increased available hospital beds in RVN from 200 to more than 3,100 within a medical complex there that equals or surpasses that of the Korean Conflict peak.

This was disclosed by Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Leonard D. Heaton in reviewing AMS activities of the past year. AMS celebrated its 101st Anniversary July 27.

Gen. Heaton said aid men, "the unsung heroes of the battlefield," and the medical helicopter ambulance, play a vital role in RVN.

Accomplishments the general mentioned included introduction of a flying operating room into RVN by the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). It is slung beneath a helicopter and can support four surgical operations simultaneously.

Other medical aids now in-country include a portable field dental unit, a foot powered jet injection device, a portable medical laboratory, and a lightweight pressure sterilizer.

The Surgeon General said whole fresh blood is available at all locations where it is required for resuscitation, shock treatment and patient care. Army has responsibility for whole blood supplies used by all allied forces in RVN.

Space-Walker Cernan Receives Wings from CNO

Gemini space-walker Cdr. Eugene A. Cernan received his astronaut wings from Chief of Naval Operation Adm. David L. McDonald

Cernan also was handed a pair of miniature astronaut wings for his wife Barbara. "She's the one who waits, I'm sure," said Adm. McDonald.

Shortly before the Pentagon ceremony July 26, Adm. McDonald asked how it feels to walk in space.

Cdr. Cernan replied that neither walking nor swimming in space is entirely satisfactory and that he wants another crack at the Extra-Vehicular-Activity maneuvering unit.

Clear Air Turbulence Test Flights Begin

Low level test flights over the Adirondack Mountains were scheduled to be conducted by Rome Air Development Center beginning in late July.

The low altitude tests, which are part of a nation-wide Air Force program to study effects of clear air turbulence on aircraft structures, controls and instruments, will continue until September 1967.

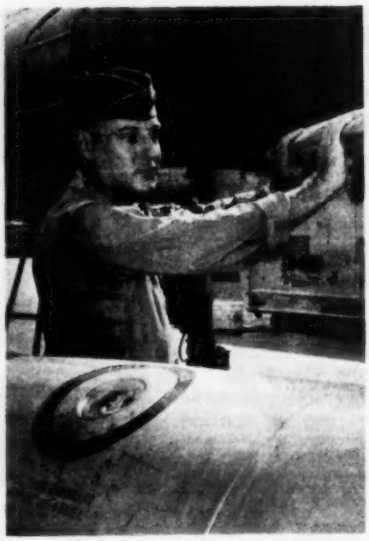
RAD's Flight Test Division is flying the test missions in a specially-instrumented, twin-engined C-131B Convair at altitudes ranging from 250 to 1,000 feet.

Sea Legs Hydrofoil Craft Transferred to Smithsonian

Naval Ship Systems Command has transferred the hydrofoil craft Sea Legs to Smithsonian Institution at a Washington Navy Yard ceremony July 27.

The craft used world's first successful submerged hydrofoil system and is credited with significant contributions to development of larger hydrofoil ships.

Sea Legs logged more than 7,000 miles of foilborne operations.



MR. LUCKY GOES HOME—Capt. Ronald R. Green, USAF, an F-100 Supersabre pilot, bids farewell to the type of plane he piloted on 231 combat missions in Vietnam without receiving a single hit from enemy fire. Capt. Green returned to the United States in July after serving one year in Vietnam.

AF 8th Aerial Port Sq, Logs High Work Total

Men of Air Force's 8th Aerial Port Squadron headquartered at Tan Son Nhut air base, Saigon, RVN, have moved 10,000 tons of mail, handled 222,614 tons of military cargo and booked 756,865 passengers since January 1.

Largest of three air cargo and passenger handling service units in Vietnam, the squadron is responsible for military passengers and cargo coming and going through Tan Son Nhut, which is the hub of Air Force activity in RVN. The squadron also operates six detachments at scattered locations, including one at Bien Hoa air base, 15 miles north of Saigon.

In airlift support of all services in Vietnam, cargo handled by the 8th has ranged from live chickens to bulldozers.

AF Revises Policy On Married WAF's

An enlisted WAF's marriage will no longer be the means to automatic separation from service, according to a revision of Air Force Manual 39-10, now being published.

Establishment of a "hardship" or evidence that a joint household cannot be established will now be required.

Heretofore, 12 months service for most WAF's, 18 months for those with technical training, plus a valid marriage certificate authorized release from active duty.

New Artillery Battery Joins 1st Air Cavalry

Artillery firepower of the 1st Cavalry (Airmobile) Division has been increased with the recent attachment of Battery C, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery. The new battery, a 155mm howitzer unit, was previously stationed at Ft. Sill, Okla.

The big guns of the battery are towable and airmobile. Each has a swivel base, allowing it to be fired in any position around a circular path.

Personnel Actions

Bernard B. Lynn has been designated Deputy Director, Defense Contract Audit Agency, Alexandria, Va., succeeding **Edward T. Cook,** who retires Aug. 5. **Capt. Frank Larsen, USN,** has been appointed Chief, Office of Industrial Security, Defense Contract Administration Services (DCAS), Defense Supply Agency, succeeding **Col. James S. Cogswell, USAF,** now designated as Special Asst. to Deputy Director for DCAS. **Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Cunningham, USAF,** Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Military Airlift Command, Scott AFB, Ill., reassigned as Commander, Twenty-Second Air Forces, Travis AFB, Calif., Aug. 1.

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